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STATE LEGISLATURE, MAD

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Saturday 18th August 1956.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI N. GOPALA MENON) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Tapping of sweet toddy

*120-I *Q*.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have stopped issuing licences for tapping sweet toddy in Coimbatore taluk, in pursuance of the resolution passed by the Coimbatore District Prohibition Committee during the year 1956;

(*b*) whether any fines were collected from the tappers of Kunnathur Jaggery Societies during April and May 1956 for not surrendering the jaggery to the Sale Society of Kunnathur; and

(*c*) the reasons for arresting or fining the owners of coconut gardens also if the tappers addicted to illicit tapping of toddy from such gardens are arrested?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) The Government have stopped the issue of fresh licences only but not the renewal of old licences.

(*b*) Yes, Sir. Only during May 1956.

(*c*) In cases where tapping of toddy is carried out with the knowledge of the owner of the coconut garden, the owner becomes liable and is proceeded against under section 4 (i) (*d*) and (*e*) of the Madras Prohibition Act.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : May I know why the Government have stopped issue of licences in Coimbatore district? Is it a prelude to the stopping of issue and renewal of licences in other districts also?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : No, Sir. There was some abuse of the licences in Coimbatore and, therefore, issue of licences was stopped.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister kindly extend this wholesome stoppage of issue of licences for tapping sweet toddy to other districts also since the licences are misused, ill-used and disused so that the object of prohibition is effectively defeated?

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Every case will be decided on its merits.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : I am totally opposed to the stopping of issue of licences since there are lakhs of people remaining unemployed. Without considering the question of providing alternative employment to these men, is it fair to stop issue of licences?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : I said at the very outset that the Government had stopped the issue of fresh licences only but not the renewal of old licences. Old licences are being renewed. But fresh licences will not be granted hereafter to those societies which are found working badly.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : How is the owner of the garden responsible when a tapper taps sweet toddy without the knowledge of the owner of the garden?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The Prohibition Act says that even the owner will be liable to be punished if he connives at the person who commits the offence.

Committee for the revision of Subordinate Services Rules

* 121 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have appointed a committee consisting of the Officers of the Secretariat to revise the existing Service Rules in respect of the several Subordinate Services in the State?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The answer is in the negative.

Beggar problem

* 122 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any scheme to tackle the begger problem in cities and municipal towns, and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Under the scheme drawn up by the Government, Beggar Homes will be started in some of the larger towns and tourist centres and will be run by the municipalities concerned. A grant of Rs. 10 per mensem in respect of each inmate detained in a home under the orders of a Court will be paid by the Government to the municipality. Payment of grant will be limited to a maximum strength of 100 inmates and 50 inmates in respect of each care camp intended for able-bodied beggars and each care home intended for diseased and infirm beggars, respectively. The services of a police staff of one head constable and six police constables will also be made available